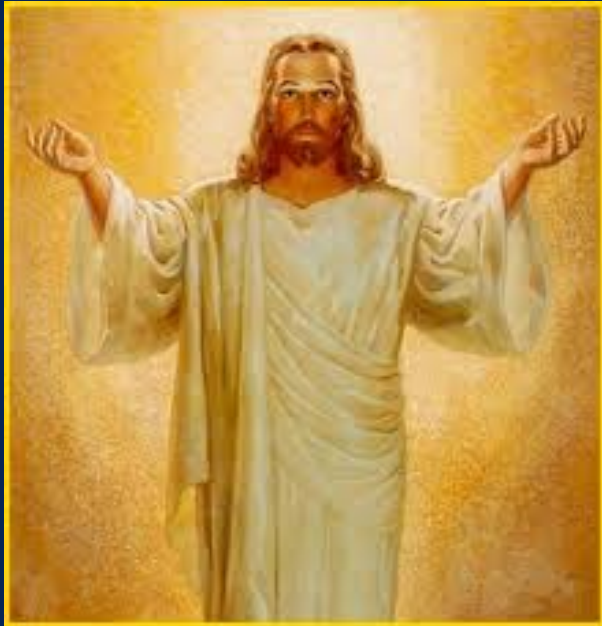


Unit 4 Christianity

4.1 Origins of Christianity



Origins



- Christianity must be examined in the context of its Jewish heritage.
- God created the universe and everything in it (creation), including human beings
- God promised to send a Messiah, or saviour
- According to the Christians the Messiah is Jesus Christ



Origins



- The source that provides the most detailed information on the life of Jesus is the New Testament of the Bible.
- Specifically in the first four books (gospels): also referred to as the “good news”
 - Matthew
 - Mark
 - Luke
 - John



The Early Life of Jesus



- According to Christian scriptures Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Virgin Mary and Joseph



- Lk 1:26-38 "And in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David: and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel being come in, said unto her: Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you: blessed are you among women. Who having heard, was troubled at his saying and thought with herself what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said to her: Fear not, Mary, for you have found grace with God. Behold you shall conceive in your

womb and shall bring forth a son: and you shall call his name Jesus. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of David his father: and he shall reign in the house of Jacob for ever. And of his kingdom there shall be no end.

The Early Life of Jesus



- Mary and Joseph came to Bethlehem, they could not find a place to stay so they took shelter in a stable
- Mary gave birth to Jesus in the stable and placed him in a manger



The Early Life of Jesus

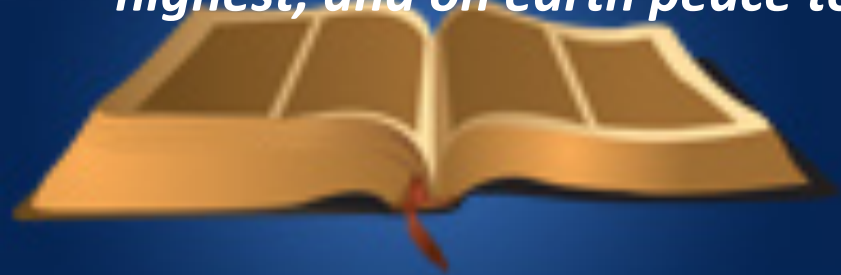


Early Life of Jesus



- Nearby, an angel appeared to the shepherds who were attending to their sheep

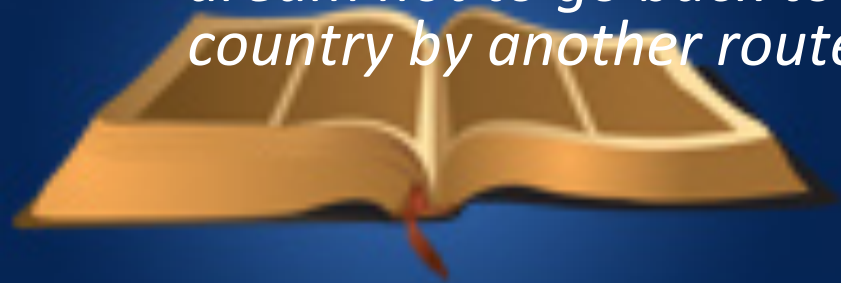
*"(Luke 2) ⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹**An angel of the Lord** appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹**Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord!** {Christ is the Greek form of the Hebrew word *Messiah*, meaning the Anointed One} ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly **a great company of the heavenly host** appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴**"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests!"***



Early Life of Jesus



- Three Wise Men followed a star that lead them to the site where Jesus was born
- *⁹After [the Magi] had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.*



Early Life of Jesus



The Baptism of Jesus



- John the Baptist was at the Jordan River to baptize Jesus
- Baptism washes away sins of the child
- Original Sin is the sin we are born with because of the Sin of Adam (Adam and Eve)



Jesus' Ministry



- Jesus' message that he was preaching challenged the accepted views of other religions
- Jesus gathered around him a small group of spiritual apprentices, **his disciples** and taught in smaller communities



Jesus' Ministry



- Jesus urged people to love their neighbors and their enemies alike, and to forgive the wrongs of others
- He forgave even the most sinful and despised members of society
- (saves a woman accused of adultery from being stoned)



Jesus' Ministry



- The Gospels describe spectacular works, called miracles
- For Example: changing water into wine
 - Multiplied fish
 - Multiplied loaves of bread
 - Healing the most diseased people



Jesus' Ministry



- Often Jesus spoke in **Parables**, or vivid moral stories drawn from situations in life



The Arrest of Jesus



- As Jesus' following grew in number, so did his religious and political enemies
- Jesus was considered the "Son of God" which was considered blasphemous by religious authorities



The Arrest of Jesus



- During Passover, Jesus entered Jerusalem and was welcomed by crowds who rushed to meet him with palm branches
- Religious authorities were planning Jesus' arrest

